

December 4, 2000

The Honorable Joe Barton, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Energy and Power  
Committee on Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) intends to publish a direct final rule, in the Federal Register, that amends the "List of approved spent fuel storage casks" (10 CFR 72.214). NRC is approving the revision of the NAC International (NAC) Universal Storage System (NAC-UMS) cask, for storage of spent fuel, under the new conditions specified in the revised Certificate of Compliance (CoC). This amendment will authorize changes to the technical specifications affecting pressurized water reactor (PWR) design basis fuel assemblies and allow the storage of Maine Yankee site-specific spent fuel in the NAC-UMS.

Amendment No. 1 includes: (1) changes to authorized contents to allow Maine Yankee site-specific spent fuels within the PWR basket, including damaged or consolidated fuel in a Maine Yankee fuel can and burnups up to 50,000 MWd/MTU; (2) changes to allow longer times for PWR spent fuel cask-loading operations based on reduced heat loads; (3) authorization to store, without canning, intact PWR assemblies with missing grid spacers (up to an unsupported length of 60 inches); (4) editorial clarifications of the technical specifications; and (5) deletion of a certificate reference to the NS-4-FR trade name of the solid neutron shielding material in the vertical concrete cask shield plug. This cask system, when used in accordance with the conditions specified in the CoC and NRC regulations, will meet the requirements of 10 CFR Part 72; thus, adequate protection of public health and safety is ensured. This cask system is being revised under 10 CFR 72.214, "List of approved spent fuel storage casks" and continues to allow holders of power-reactor operating licenses to store spent fuel in the cask system under a general license.

Sincerely,

/RA/ by L. Portner for  
Dennis K. Rathbun, Director  
Office of Congressional Affairs

Enclosure:  
Federal Register Notice

cc: Representative Rick Boucher



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**Identical Letter sent to The Honorable James M. Inhofe with cc: to Senator Bob Graham**

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December 4, 2000

The Honorable James N. Inhofe, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Clean Air, Wetlands, Private  
Property and Nuclear Safety  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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